

## **RAB Minutes**

### **NAS North Island**

### **Restoration Advisory Board**

### **CTO-057**

### **Subject: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 14, 1995**

The eighteenth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, September 14, 1995 in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Mike Magee, acting Navy Co-Chair for the NAS North Island RAB, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Magee began the meeting with a brief outline of the evening's key topics: an update on the Defense Environmental Restoration Account; an update on the results of air monitoring at Buildings 743 and 744 along Site 9; an update on the shoreline slag emergency removal action; a discussion of the possible designation of a new Installation Restoration (IR) Site number; an update on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation/Remedial Feasibility Investigation (RI/RFI) activities at Site 5; an update on the op/ed piece; a briefing on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk tour; and an announcement/discussion of the Visitor's Day for Sites 4, 6, and 10. Mr. Magee also introduced Captain Ray Mello, NAS North Island Staff Civil Engineer.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes from the August 24, 1995 RAB Meeting**

The August 24, 1995 RAB meeting minutes were accepted and approved with one amendment to page 2. An additional bullet was added to the shoreline slag emergency removal action section of the minutes. The new bullet reads:

- RAB member Clay Kordahl requested additional groundwater monitoring around the area of the Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area (Site 5) to monitor the possible flow of radioactive wastes in the groundwater to the residential area adjacent to Site 5.

### **Update on the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) Budget**

Mr. Jim Farris, Branch Manager for Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command (SWDIV), provided an update on the status of the Fiscal Year 1996 (FY96)

DERA budget.

- Mr. Farris explained that DERA funds the Navy, Army, Air Force, and the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program. He also explained that only a portion of the DERA budget has been allocated to SWDIV; SWDIV will receive 70 million of the 421 million dollars available in FY96.
- Mr. Farris explained in detail the funded and "unfunded" portions of the NAS North Island FY96 DERA budget. The funded portion of the budget is for those projects that have been budgeted and are required items. The unfunded portion of the budget is for those projects that are required, but have not yet been funded. Funded projects include: a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study-Bioassay and Environmental Sampling and Analysis Plan (RI/FS-BESAP) for Site 1; an RI/FS Implementation at Site 7; and a Removal Action through Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) at Sites 9 and 11.
- Mr. Farris also explained that the Department of Defense's (DoD) Relative Risk Site Evaluation Model (RRSEM) was developed April 14, 1994. The model is a method for placing sites in relative risk categories and ranking them according to their risk ranking. This provides the Navy (SWDIV) with a relative priorities list for funding the investigations and clean up of the worst sites (highest relative risk) first. The challenge in using the system is sequencing cleanup work in an efficient manner.
- Mr. Farris explained further that the RRSEM framework is an evaluation of site information at a point in time based on three key factors: the contamination hazard factor, the migratory pathway factor, and the receptor factor. Through the RRSEM process, the three key factors are evaluated in four media: groundwater, surface water, sediment, and surface soil.
- Mr. Farris concluded his presentation with an overview of the Navy's goals in utilizing the RRSEM model. The goals are: maximizing applicability across DoD; encouraging stakeholder participation; ensuring that the program is acceptable to regulatory agencies; and maintaining a user-friendly evaluation process.

#### **Update on the Results of Air Monitoring at Buildings 743 and 744**

Mr. Mike Magee discussed the results of the air monitoring at Buildings 743 and 744 in the Weapons Department Area of NAS North Island. Mr. Magee stated that the two buildings are primarily administration buildings.

- Mr. Magee stated that monitoring at the two buildings was conducted in July and August 1995. Four organic vapor devices, or samplers, were placed inside Building 744 and three were placed inside Building 743. One device was placed

outside the two buildings. The samplers remained in place for eight weeks.

- The monitoring found nothing that could be a potential hazard to human health or the environment. The sampler outside the two buildings had a reading of "non-detect"; the seven samplers inside measured some organic vapors, but the vapors found were associated with things like fruit, perfume and cleaning chemicals. There was no indication of exposure to workers in the area to soil gases emanating from Site 9.
- Mr. Magee said that the two buildings will be sampled again in the winter months.

### **Update on the Shoreline Slag Emergency Removal Action Near Site 10**

Mr. Magee provided a brief update on the status of the Shoreline Slag Emergency Removal Action near the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10).

- Mr. Magee thanked the RAB for its letter to Captain Steuer which stated that the RAB was impressed with the NAS North Island team's quick response to the cleanup of the shoreline slag near Site 10.
- Mr. Magee explained that 75 total verification samples were taken on the shoreline in the area around where the slag was removed. All of the samples were scanned for radionuclides and found to be at background levels. The samples also underwent analysis for heavy metals and Title 22 analysis for total threshold limit concentrations (TTLC) for metals. Only one of the samples exceeded the State of California's standard for TTLC for lead. (TTLC standard for lead is 1,000 milligrams per kilogram; the above background sample was at 3,500 milligrams per kilogram.)
- Mr. Magee stated that Phase I of the cleanup has been completed. The exposed slag outcrops were removed from the shoreline and the embankment near Site 10 in Phase I. The site was closed and contained with an embankment. The site was also verified to be clean, except for the one sample that exceeded California's standards for TTLC for lead.
- Mr. Magee stated that Phase II (transportation, treatment, and disposal of the excavated slag) will begin after the beginning of the public review and comment period for the Action Memorandum (the required follow-up documentation for an emergency removal action). Phase II work will be conducted concurrent with the public comment and review period. The 30-day review period for the Action Memorandum will close on October 27, 1995.
- Mr. Magee informed the RAB that the Environmental Health Coalition has requested information, under the Freedom of Information Act, regarding the

emergency removal action and Site 10.

- In response to a RAB member question regarding a report citing elevated levels of alpha activity, Mr. Magee stated that he was unsure if the Navy was planning to conduct any studies of fish in the Bay. He also stated that recommendations were made to the Port of San Diego to do follow-up studies on fish in the Bay. Mr. Richard Mach, Remedial Project Manager with SWDIV, added that the Navy will follow-up with the State of California on the issue. A copy of the referenced report will be placed in the information repositories.

### **Discussion of the Designation of a new IR Site**

Mr. Magee discussed the possibility of creating a new IR Site. The site under consideration is the area of slag still present in the sediment/embankment near the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10). This slag has been identified as containing a small amount of radioactive waste. The Navy is also considering including this area as part of IR Site 1, Shoreline Sediments.

- Mr. Magee provided an overview of the issues facing the Navy when making the decision to assign a new IR Site. Primary concerns for the Navy in designating new IR Sites are budgeting and effects of the new IR Site on the current IR Program at NAS North Island.
- Mr. Bill Collins, NAS North Island Team Leader for SWDIV, informed the RAB that the area under consideration is an isolated area deep within the slag. The radioactive wastes are not escaping from the metals. He also indicated that the alpha particles contained in the radioactive wastes could not penetrate the skin. RAB member Cynthia Bradbury stated that alpha particles are not likely to transfer through the air more than a couple of centimeters and less so in water.
- Mr. Magee stated that it is likely that a decision regarding the designation of a new IR Site will be made before the next RAB meeting. Mr. Magee also stated that a portion of the remaining slag in the sediment area will be further characterized through the Bioassay and Environmental Sampling and Analysis Plan scheduled to begin October 1, 1995.

### **Update on RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Feasibility Investigation (RI/RFI) at Site 5**

Mr. Doug Casey, Remedial Project Manager with SWDIV, provided an update on the RI/RFI being implemented at the Golf Course Garbage Disposal Area (Site 5).

- Mr. Casey informed the RAB that Mr. Collins, Mr. Jim Kozakowski of Bechtel National Incorporated, and Mr. Jim Polisini of the California Environmental

Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) met to discuss the sampling plan for Site 5. Mr. Kozakowski had begun writing the workplan as per Mr. Polisini's recommendations, but the workplan was not completed pending results of additional sampling at the site. SWDIV decided, with concurrence from DTSC and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, to utilize Precision Testing (a contractor already conducting tests at the Building 39 Runoff Catchment Area) at the site to conduct tests in the area identified in the Phase I Technical Memorandum as containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The tests identified an area with 100 parts-per-million of dichloroethylene (DCE), an additional area with 1 part-per-million of DCE, and some other VOCs in smaller concentrations.

- BNI completed the workplan and changed its objective in light of the new findings. The document is currently undergoing internal BNI review. It is expected that the document will be finalized by the end of October 1995 and Phase II sampling will begin in November 1995. The final RI report is expected around the middle of spring 1996.

### **Update on the Opinion/Editorial (Op/Ed) Piece**

Ms. Dottie Marron, Community Co-Chair for the RAB, read a letter from RAB member Ms. Laura Hunter. Ms. Hunter has been working on a piece regarding Technical Assistance Grants for the RAB.

- Ms. Hunter's letter indicated that she was working with Mr. Bernie Jones of the San Diego Union-Tribune on the op/ed piece. Mr. Jones expressed interest in the article and asked that Ms. Hunter and Mr. Clay Kordahl, RAB member working with Ms. Hunter, edit the article and resubmit it to him.

### **Briefing on U.S.S. Kitty Hawk Tour**

Ms. Bradbury briefed the RAB on the recent RAB tour of the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk.

- Ms. Bradbury stated that five people attended the in-depth tour. She stated that tour attendees learned about the Kitty Hawk's recycling program and environmental management program.

### **Announcement/Discussion of Visitor's Day at Sites 4, 6, and 10**

Mr. Mach announced the Visitor's Day scheduled for the Public Works Salvage Yard (Site 4), the Heritage Park Public Works Salvage (Site 6), and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10). Mr. Mach requested RAB member input on the preferred date for the Visitor's Day; RAB members selected Saturday, October 21, 1995.

## **General and Closing Questions and Answers/Comments**

- Ms. Marsha Mingay, Public Participation Specialist with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), announced the upcoming 45-day public comment period initiated by DTSC. Public comment is requested on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Treatment and Hazardous Waste Storage Facility Permit at the Public Works Center. Ms. Mingay noted that a public hearing will be held 30 days into the public comment period.
- Ms. Bradbury provided an overview of the September 8, 1995 "Alternatives to Risk Assessment" Workshop hosted by the Environmental Health Coalition. Ms. Bradbury stated that the workshop featured two specialists speaking about issues relating to increased community involvement in all environmental issues.
- Mr. Mach informed the RAB of the Navy's desire to implement another community outreach campaign in order to seek out additional members for the RAB. The outreach campaign will begin in October of this year. [Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that new members would be elected in November 1995. It is recommended that the Community Co-Chair election take place in either December 1995 or January 1996. This will be put to a vote at the October RAB meeting.]

Mr. Magee adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

[The next RAB meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 1995 at the Coronado Public Library in the Winn Room. The November 9, 1995 RAB meeting will be held at the same location.]